

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HINOJOSA. Mr. Speaker, I rise to say that millions of Americans are waiting desperately for Congress to act on health care reform and higher education reconciliation legislation. As Chair of the Higher Education, Lifelong Learning, and Competitiveness Subcommittee, I call on my colleagues in the House to put the uninsured and our students and families first. The Student Aid and Fiscal Responsibility Act, known as SAFRA, H.R. 3221, which we passed in the House last September, must be included as part of the final health care reconciliation legislation. SAFRA makes the single largest investment in college financial aid in history. It's bigger than the GI Bill. It expands accessibility and affordability in higher education by investing tens of billions of dollars in Pell grants, building a world-class community college system, strengthening early educational programs, and making landmark investments of \$2.55 billion in Historically Black Colleges and Universities, Hispanic-Serving Institutions, tribally controlled colleges and universities and other minority-serving institutions.

I am proud to stand with my colleagues in the Tri-Caucus in urging the House and Senate leadership to maintain the investments for Minority-Serving Institutions in the final reconciliation bill. This legislation is an investment in the "future of our country!"

Through the government's Direct Loan program, SAFRA will make college loans more affordable for students and families.

I urge my colleagues to make the right choice for millions of students, families, and uninsured residents who need our help to improve their lives. Vote for Health Care and Higher Education Reconciliation Legislation.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. OWENS). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2009, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

RIGHT OF PRIVACY WILL BE STOLEN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. POE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, we are told that we must immediately pass this government takeover of health care or there will be health care panic in the streets. Now, we know the real reason this bill is being rushed to passage, even though no one has had time to read it. According to the Speaker, as quoted, "We have to pass this bill so that you can find out what is in it." Let me repeat what the Speaker said: "We have to pass the bill so that you can find out what is in it."

After all, it's 2,700 pages long, and it's just too long to find out what's in

it before we vote on it. So now we know, it has to be voted on so it can be read. I guess if Members read the whole bill before they voted, they might actually vote it down.

But there's one thing that we do know that's in this bill, and it is that it steals the right of privacy for all Americans. It will invade people's legal right to medical privacy. The government gets control over everybody's health care information, and it's another reason why we should oppose the bill. The government has no business sticking its nose into people's medical records. It's none of the government's business. The bill creates a health care integrity data bank where the Feds have access to everybody's medical records. Health care information is supposed to be between the patient and the doctor, not the patient and some yet unnamed, anonymous, unaccountable Federal bureaucrat hiding somewhere in this building.

When the government has everybody's medical records, they are at risk for misuse. Giving government bureaucrats' access to people's most private and intimate health information means their health records become public property. People's most intimate private health care information, warts and all, becomes the property of the U.S. Government. The Federal Government grab of health care will eliminate any masquerade of medical privacy.

The 111 new Federal agencies in this bill, that we have yet to read, will be snooping through your records. Talk to your doctor, and the government will know what you said. You've got some type of illness or disease, well, the government's going to know about it. Feeling a bit depressed after a family death and need some medication? Well, the government will even know your mental health issues. Now, is this the kind of information that should be in the hands of Federal bureaucrats, a bunch of busybody bureaucrats bestowed with the task to go forth and do good to the people?

The famous author C.S. Lewis once said, "Of all the tyrannies, a tyranny exercised for the good of its victims may be the most oppressive. It may be better to live under robber barons than under omnipotent moral busybodies. The robber barons' cruelty may sometimes sleep, but those who torment us for our own good will torment us without end."

□ 1815

See, don't worry, the bureaucrats will boast. It's for your own good that we know this information. It won't hurt too much.

Once medical records are available to the Feds, every government agency will want to get their hands on those private medical records. That's just the way those bureaucrats work. And every American will be required to be a part of the Big Brother health care database.

People won't talk to their doctor anymore about their problems. They'll know somewhere in the deep, dark, dank dungeons of Washington, D.C., a Federal bureaucrat will be reading and perusing their medical records.

This is an invasion of privacy, and it violates the U.S. Constitution. The whole scheme denies individual liberty when the government takes over health care.

Thomas Jefferson even talked about universal health care once. He said: If the people let government decide what foods they eat and what medicines they take, their bodies will soon be in as sorry a state as are the souls of those who live under tyranny.

When government takes over health care, it will equalize poor health for everybody. The government takeover of health care is not about health and it's sure not about care. It's about government control of our personal lives. And this legislation violates our U.S. Constitution because it steals the right of privacy right from underneath us, all in the name of taking care of us.

And that's just the way it is.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Ms. WOOLSEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. WOOLSEY addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

THE SENATE MUST PASS THE JOBS BILL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. ETHERIDGE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call on the United States Senate to follow the House's lead and pass the jobs bill. The House passed the HIRE Act last week, and now the Senate needs to send it to the President for his signature. Americans need jobs and we need them now.

My constituents tell me they want Congress to quit the bickering and the partisan posturing and get to work and fix the economy. Wall Street may be doing well enough for the bankers to reward themselves with big bonuses, but folks on Main Street are still hurting.

North Carolina's unemployment rate has been above 11 percent for too long, and some counties in my congressional district are experiencing unemployment as high as 14.6 percent. More than half a million North Carolina workers are unemployed according to the new figures released by the Employment Security Commission.

I've said before and I'll say it again, my top priorities of what we need to be doing are jobs, jobs, jobs. The jobs bill will provide the incentive companies need to put people to work today, giving employers a tax credit for every new worker they hire.